

CANADA Daily News and Updates July 17th 2024

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Air Updates

'Unfair' IATA CASS Rules Put 'Severe Financial Strain' on Forwarders

IATA is causing “severe financial strain” for start-up and SME forwarders that could propel them out of business.

The airline association has been accused of anti-competitive and unfair commercial practices, and could face legal action as forwarders look to complain to national competition authorities.

The problems stem from an October 2022 change in IATA’s resolutions that means CASS associates are now obliged to provide financial guarantees to be able to access the payments system.

Companies say that not only are the rules unfair, but also the wrong formula is being applied.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Ocean Updates

Xeneta Sees Ocean Container Spot Rates Peaking

The dramatic surge in ocean freight container shipping rates appears to be reaching its peak as importers push back against rising spot rates, according to data released by Xeneta on Monday.

Average spot rates from the Far East to the U.S. East Coast increased by 3.7% on July 15, reaching US\$10,045 per FEU (40-foot equivalent unit), while spot rates to the U.S. West Coast also rose by 2.0% to \$8,045 per FEU. While these increases are significant, Xeneta points out they are much smaller than the sharp rises seen on July 1, which saw rates spike by 22% to the U.S. East Coast and 12% to the U.S. West Coast.

“Xeneta data shows some ocean container carriers are still pushing spot rate increases in mid-July, but, for the first time in a long time, some carriers are offering lower spot rates,” says Emily Stausbøll, a senior shipping analyst at Xeneta.

Stausbøll highlighted that this shift suggests a growing level of available capacity in the market, allowing shippers to negotiate better rates. “As the balance of negotiating power starts to swing back towards shippers, we should see spot rates start to come back down,” she added.

Read more in an [article from gCaptain](#).

German Port Workers to Vote on Contract Proposals After Multiple Strikes

Germany’s Ver.di union has decided to present two possible alternatives for a new dockworkers’ contract to the membership for comments after four rounds of contentious negotiations. Ver.di says it will determine its response after the membership survey to what the Central Association of German Seaport Operators (ZDS) called its final offer.

The contract for 11,000 port workers expired at the end of May. The union staged a series of warning strikes during June and July, bringing cargo shipments and containers to a halt at major ports ranging from Hamburg to Bremerhaven and Edem. The stoppages ranged from one to two days at a time, with carriers such as Maersk warning that they could be forced to divert ships or experience delays.

“The offer falls short of expectations,” the union’s Federal Collective Bargaining Committee said after the fourth round ended on Friday night. They noted however that the employers had accepted some of their demands, including a financial bonus and compensation for the stress of shift work.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

CN Customer Advisory: Flooding on Tuesday in Area of Malport and Brampton Terminals

In an advisory issued at 2:30 pm on Tuesday, CN said severe rainfall in the GTA caused flooding on both Torbram Road (entrance to Malport) and Intermodal Drive (entrance to Brampton Intermodal). The flooding was causing delays to trucks departing the terminals, leading to increased turn times.

The terminals deployed personnel on the ground to assist drivers and help with traffic flow into and out of the terminals.